

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Raja Tun Uda Library Establishes TOEFL Corner and Co-Organizes the TOEFL Young Student Series Community Program**

**Shah Alam (25 April 2017)** – Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Selangor (PPAS), with the coordination and assistance from Eshia & Associates Sdn Bhd, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) country representative for Malaysia and Shake Book Projects Sdn Bhd, today announced that the Raja Tun Uda Library in Shah Alam will be the first library in Malaysia to establish a “TOEFL Corner” and co-organize the TOEFL® Young Student Series Community Program.

The TOEFL Corner at Raja Tun Uda Library will house books and online materials relevant to the TOEFL® Young Students Series program. Designed to set the foundation for the successful development of English-language skills and to help guide younger students to the next steps of learning, the TOEFL® Young Students Series features age-appropriate assessments. The TOEFL® Primary™ Test is suitable for students age nine to 11, while the TOEFL Junior® Standard Test is relevant for students age 11 to 15.

“English today is among the fastest spreading language and for Selangor to maintain its position as the most developed state in Malaysia, we need to equip our children today so that they are proficient with the language and become better workforce in the future,” says Puan Hajah Mastura Haji Muhamad, Director of PPAS. She adds, “This initiative by Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Selangor is part of our long term strategy of rebranding libraries in Selangor to have the elements of changing the heart, the mindset and the attitude, to improve our infrastructure and to value-add our collection. I am delighted of this establishment of the TOEFL Corner and the monthly TOEFL Primary Test and TOEFL Junior Test to be held at our Raja Tun Uda Library because the role of the library in this 21<sup>st</sup> century is beyond just providing books.”

Ezani Amir, Managing Director of Eshia & Associates adds, “This is our commitment to the continuous development, particularly in English proficiency, for our Malaysian children. It is important to expose our students, the parents and teachers to fair, valid and reliable internationally recognized assessment tools where the scores can be understood in a meaningful manner. These tests will definitely assist parents and teachers to identify and plan appropriate learning interventions and help the children with their English communication skills as they progress in their learning environment.”

“As a local independent book publisher and publishing consultancy that focuses on books in English, we are proud to be part of this initiative because independent and valid assessments are critical for progress. We need to know where we are in order to move forward”, says Sheikh Faisal Sheikh Mansor, of Shake Book Projects Sdn Bhd. Sheikh Faisal, who is also the Honorary Secretary of the Malaysian Book Publishers Association adds, “The books and other relevant online and off-line learning materials at the TOEFL Corner will all have Lexile Measure, thus making the TOEFL Corner a “TOEFL reference center” for the library. Lexile Measures help parents, teachers, and librarians select books and other relevant materials that provide the right level of challenge for the reader’s skills and goals, and to monitor growth in reading ability. As part of the developmental plan, we will also be conducting TOEFL preparatory workshops for the kids at the library in the future.”

Monthly TOEFL Primary Test and TOEFL Junior Test will be made available to public starting May 2017 and students are encouraged to register early as limited test seats are available. To register for the test, please log on to [www.testcenter.my](http://www.testcenter.my)

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**About Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Selangor [[www.ppas.gov.my](http://www.ppas.gov.my)]**

Perbadanan Perpustakaan Awam Selangor (PPAS) with its head office at Raja Tun Uda Library, Shah Alam, establishes and manages the state library and its other public libraries at all the nine districts in Selangor State. To date, PPAS manages 103 libraries, of which nearly one-third of them have already been revamped and some are still undergoing the renovation process under the “The Rebranding of PPAS” initiative. The rebranding initiative which was launched on 26 May 2009, focuses not only on the library buildings, but also on the change of heart-set, mindset, and attitude of the PPAS staff members, as well as the improvement and enhancement of the library collection and programs.

**About Eshia & Associates [[www.testcenter.my](http://www.testcenter.my)]**

Eshia & Associates owns and manages the Test Center Malaysia and has been appointed by ETS to promote, market and administer the TOEIC, TOEFL and WorkFORCE family of tests for the Malaysian market.

**About Shake Book Projects Sdn Bhd [[www.bookprojects.com.my](http://www.bookprojects.com.my)]**

Shake Book Projects Sdn Bhd is an independent book publisher and publishing consultancy that organizes projects and activities to spur the growth of the book industry, including publishing and representing books by self-published authors and other publishers locally and abroad.

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